



# AUSTRALIA DAY 2026

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## COMMUNITY AWARDS & CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Monday 26 January 2026

Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Braidwood &  
Captains Flat



2026 Australia Day Ambassador, Andy Paschalidis

## MEET OUR 2026 AUSTRALIA DAY AMBASSADOR, ANDY PASCHALIDIS

Andy Paschalidis has been a key figure in Australian sports broadcasting for over 40 years, with a focus on football.

His career began in 1983 at *Australian Soccer Weekly*, and a year later, he joined *SBS Television*, where he worked alongside iconic figures Les Murray and Johnny Warren. From there, Andy became a familiar voice in football, moving into radio with 2GB and later becoming one of the first faces on Australian pay television during his time with *Fox Sports* from 1995 to 2003. He continued his career with over two decades at *Sky Sports Radio*, while his expertise also took him globally as a commentator for the *Indian Super League* from 2015 to 2022.

Throughout his career, Andy has covered major tournaments, including FIFA World Cups, European Championships, and FA Cups, establishing himself as one of Australia's most experienced football commentators.

In 2016, following the tragic on-field death of a teammate during an amateur match, Andy founded the *Heartbeat of Football Foundation*. The charity is focused on reducing cardiac incidents in sport by raising awareness, conducting free heart health screenings, and installing defibrillators at sports grounds. By 2023, the foundation grew into *Heartbeat of Sport* to cover a broader range of sports. That same year, it partnered with FIFA at the Women's World Cup, helping promote heart health awareness worldwide.

Andy has also been dedicated to giving back to the community in other ways, supporting over 800 fundraising events for charities such as the *Special Olympics Australia*, *Variety Club*, and *Humpty Dumpty Foundation*. Since 1996, he has served as an Australia Day Ambassador, encouraging Australians to come together and celebrate diversity and inclusion. Andy is passionate about using both sport and community initiatives to foster stronger connections and promote healthier lives.

As of 2025, *Heartbeat of Football* has run 185 free heart health testing activations across Australia, including in communities like Mildura, Whyalla, and Darwin, saving the lives of 40 football players in New South Wales alone.

Andy remains committed to his mission of making sports safer, particularly through the installation of defibrillators across the nation. His career and advocacy work highlight how sport can bring people together and create meaningful change.



# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

## Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are one and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.



# 2026 QUEANBEYAN AUSTRALIA DAY PROGRAM

Commencing at 5.30pm  
Queanbeyan Town Park

- ★ **Introduction by MC** – Brian Leonard
- ★ **Welcome to Country** – Dr Aunty Caroline Hughes AM, Project Dust and Brad Bell.
- ★ **Address by QPRC Mayor** – Cr Kenrick Winchester
- ★ **Address by Australia Day Ambassador** – Andy Paschalidis
- ★ Address by other official guests

## Australia Day Awards presentation

- **Event of the Year**
  - **Community Organisation of the Year**
  - **Young Citizen of the Year**
  - **Senior Citizen of the Year**
  - **Citizen of the Year**
- ★ Citizenship Ceremony
  - ★ National Anthem
  - ★ Cutting of the Australia Day cake
  - ★ Performance by Jerikye Williams / Performance by Woodface
  - ★ Fireworks - Food is available to purchase in the park





# 2026 BUNGENDORE AUSTRALIA DAY PROGRAM

Commencing at 2pm  
Bungendore Bowling & Sports Club

- ★ **Introduction by MC** – Garry Cook
- ★ **Welcome to Country** – Dr Aunty Caroline Hughes AM
- ★ **Address by QPRC Mayor** – Cr Kenrick Winchester
- ★ **Address by Australia Day Ambassador** – Andy Paschalidis
- ★ Address by other official guests

## Australia Day Awards presentation

- **Event of the Year**
- **Community Organisation of the Year**
- **Young Citizen of the Year**
- **Senior Citizen of the Year**
- **Citizen of the Year**

- ★ National Anthem
- ★ Cutting of the Australia Day cake



# 2026 BRAIDWOOD AUSTRALIA DAY PROGRAM

Commencing at 12pm  
Braidwood Servicemen's Club

- ★ Introduction by MC – Nick Fry
- ★ Welcome to Country – Dr Aunty Caroline Hughes AM
- ★ Address by QPRC Mayor – Cr Kenrick Winchester
- ★ Address by Australia Day Ambassador – Andy Paschalidis
- ★ Performance by Braidwood Dance Studio

## Australia Day Awards presentation

- Event of the Year
  - Community Organisation of the Year
  - Young Citizen of the Year
  - Senior Citizen of the Year
  - Citizen of the Year
- ★ National Anthem
  - ★ Cutting of the Australia Day cake





# 2026 CAPTAINS FLAT AUSTRALIA DAY PROGRAM

Commencing at 10am  
Captains Flat Community Hall

- ★ **Introduction by MC** – Ellanor Pavlovich
- ★ **Welcome to Country** – Dr Aunty Caroline Hughes AM
- ★ **National Anthem**
- ★ **Address by QPRC Deputy Mayor** – Cr Esma Livermore
- ★ **Address by Australia Day Ambassador** – Andy Paschalidis

## Australia Day Awards presentation

- Event of the Year
- Community Organisation of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Citizen of the Year





